

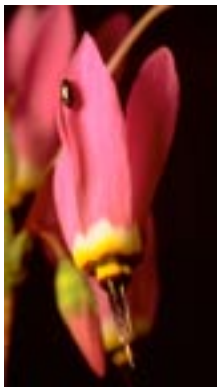
Circle Hikes Guide

Chautauqua Meadow Flagstaff Mountain Green Mountain



Photo: Dan Fogelberg

Boulder is surrounded by over 43,000 acres of city-owned open space land. From the plains grasslands to the forests and towering rock formations of the foothills, residents and visitors are able to enjoy some of the most scenic and diverse open space land in the country. These lands help to preserve the natural environment of the Boulder area, while providing buffers between Boulder and adjacent communities.



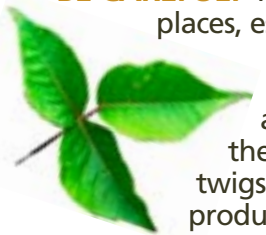
PLANTS

There may be over 700 species of trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses and ferns on Open Space and Mountain Parks. Our flora includes prairie species of the Great Plains alongside plants of the Southern Rocky Mountains and Chihuahuan Desert. Ice Age plants such as paper birch trees and big bluestem

grass thrive in cooler, moister nooks. Plants protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act find refuge here.



Photos: Shooting Star (Bill May), Wood Lily (Brian Peck)



BE CAREFUL! Poison ivy grows in many places, especially in moist drainages. Watch out for three shiny leaves. Many people suffer a serious skin reaction when they contact this plant. Even its twigs and ivory-colored berries can produce a reaction.

ANIMALS

Open Space and Mountain Parks is one of the most diverse wildlife areas in all of Colorado, providing habitat for many species. Boulder residents have chosen to protect this intricate tapestry of ecosystems.

Some of our most frequently seen mammals include mule deer, golden-mantled ground squirrel, fox squirrel, chickaree and Abert's or tassel-eared squirrel. Occasionally, visitors are fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of a coyote, red fox, or long-tailed weasel. Rarely seen are the secretive bobcat, mountain lion and black bear.



Many birds also live here year-round, including black-billed magpie, Steller's jay, mountain and black-capped chickadees, red- and white-breasted nuthatches, northern flicker, common raven, and dark-eyed junco. Some of our summer visitors include broad-tailed hummingbird, western wood-peewee, yellow-rumped warbler, western tanager and spotted towhee.

Please help us keep our wildlife wild—do not approach or feed animals. Enjoy them from a respectful distance. By staying on designated hiking trails, respecting trail closures, and following dog regulations, you can help preserve vanishing wildlife.



Photos: Fringed Myotis bat (Bat Conservation International), Saw Whet Owl (Joseph Connell)

LEAVE NO TRACE ON OPEN SPACE & MOUNTAIN PARKS



Manage Your Dog

Others may not appreciate your dog's company. If you are not sure, ask before allowing your dog to approach. Keep your dog nearby and under control. Carry and use a leash as required.



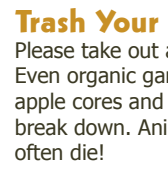
Pick Up Poop

Phew! Dog poop stinks, causes severe damage to the environment, and others can step in it. Pack a pick-up bag and always pick up your dog's poop — wherever it's left.



Stay on Trail

Traveling on trail leaves room for wildlife and their homes. Shortcutting trails causes erosion. Get muddy! Step right through puddles. Boots dry overnight; plants take years to recover.



Trash Your Trash

Please take out all trash — yours and others'. Even organic garbage such as orange peels, apple cores and food scraps, take years to break down. Animals which feed on trash often die!



Leave It as You Find It

Picking flowers, collecting rocks, or picking berries may not seem to be a big deal, but it means others won't have a chance to enjoy them. Millions of people visit Open Space & Mountain Parks. If each takes something, what will remain?

Share Our Trails

We all enjoy Open Space & Mountain Parks in different ways. Pay attention, expect to encounter others and be courteous. Yield to all.



Open Space & Mountain Parks
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FLAGSTAFF MOUNTAIN LOOPS

A Boy Scout - May's Point Loop (easy)

Begin at Boy Scout trailhead, head W through Douglas-fir forest. Trail gently rises and falls to May's Point for views of the Indian Peaks. Return to parking lot at W end of Flagstaff picnic area via Boy Scout Trail, a brief leg on Ute Trail, and Flagstaff Road. 1 hour, 1.2 miles.

B Ute - Range View (easy/moderate)

Ute Trail begins at N side of Realization Point parking lot (3.5 miles up Flagstaff Rd.), contours NE along Flagstaff Mountain. Turn left on Range View Trail heading to W. Enjoy views of the distant Indian Peaks as Range View Trail returns back to Realization Point. 1 hour, 1.1 mile.

C Tenderfoot Loop (moderate)

At Realization Point parking lot (3.5 miles up Flagstaff Rd.), look for the old fire road with the metal bar gate adjacent to Flagstaff Road. Follow fire road as it winds downhill, 1.4 miles. Approximately 0.25 miles past cattleguard, the trail turns N and leaves the old road. It climbs SE back to Realization Point with views of the Indian Peaks and Sugarloaf Mountain. 2 hours, 2 miles.

CHAUTAUQUA LOOPS

D Chautauqua - Bluebell-Baird - Mesa (easy)

From the W side of the Ranger Cottage, follow Chautauqua Trail up through meadow. Enjoy flowers and prairie grasses as well as magnificent views of the Flatirons and Boulder. Upon reaching Bluebell-Baird Trail, turn left through ponderosa pines to the Bluebell picnic shelter. Follow the Bluebell Fire Road downhill past the outhouses to the Ranger Cottage. 1.5 hours, 1.6 miles.

E McClintock - Enchanted Mesa (easy)

Dogs are not allowed on McClintock Trail. From the parking area by the Chautauqua Auditorium, follow McClintock trail S. Cross the fire road by the stone bridge and continue S on McClintock. The shrubby drainage on your right is a haven for bears and other wildlife. At the intersection with Mesa Trail, turn left. Follow Mesa Trail for a short distance through ponderosa pine forest, then turn left at the junction with Enchanted Mesa Trail. 2 hours, 2.1 miles.

GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOPS

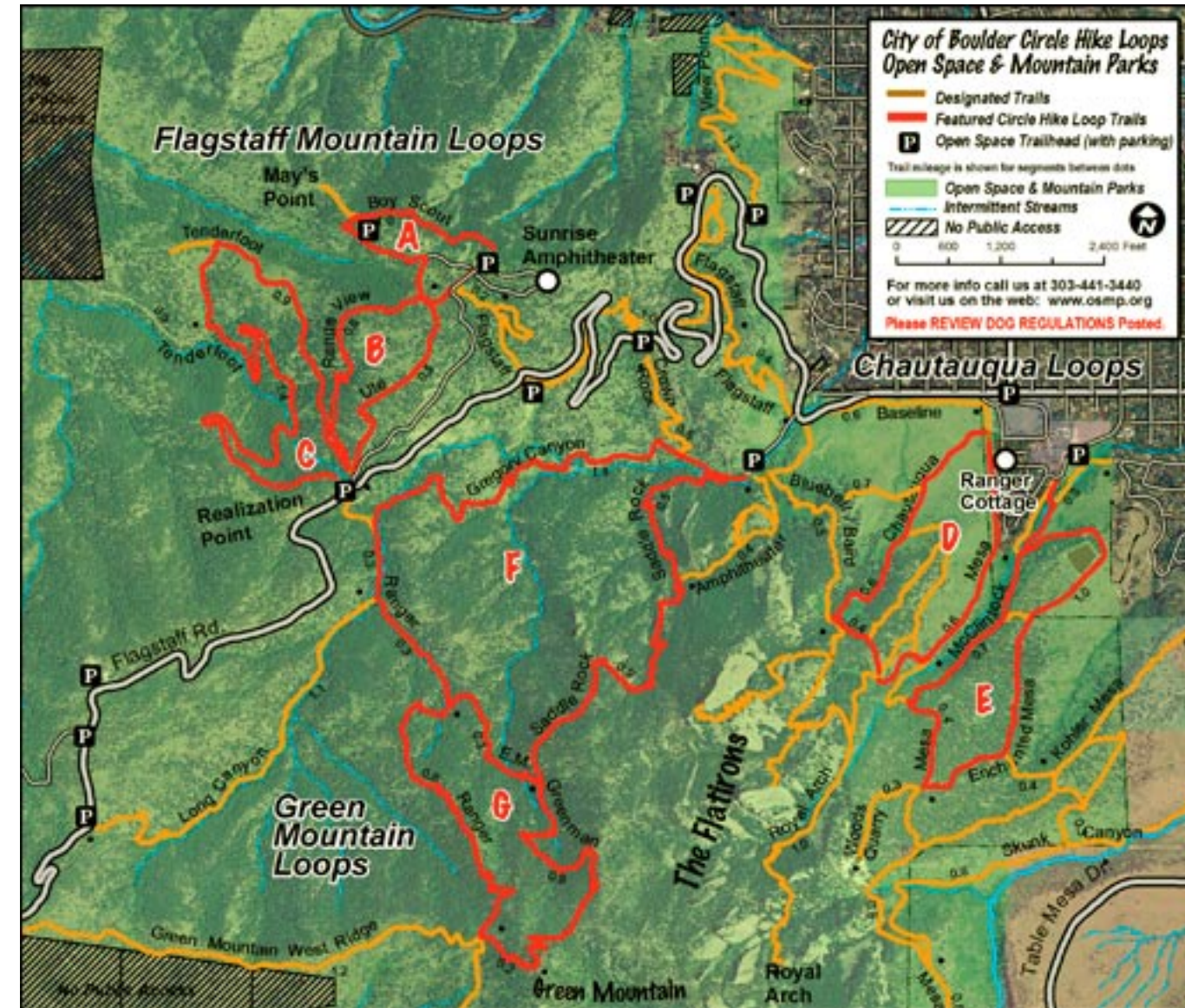
F Gregory Canyon - Ranger - E.M. Greenman - Saddle Rock (hard)

Trail begins at Gregory Canyon parking lot off Baseline Rd. Watch for poison ivy along the trail. Trail merges with old fire road and continues S to Green Mountain Lodge. Take Ranger Trail from S side of lodge to the E.M. Greenman Trail. Just after crossing creek, Greenman Trail meets Saddle Rock Trail. Follow Saddle Rock Trail down to Gregory Canyon parking lot. 3.5 hours, 3.7 miles.

G Extension to Green Mountain Summit (strenuous)

Follow directions as listed for Green Mountain Loop F, but remain on Ranger Trail to intersection with Green Mountain West Ridge Trail. Turn left (E) and follow trail to summit of Green Mountain. The summit is home to many butterflies, and in fall swarms of ladybird beetles congregate here. Be careful of afternoon thunderstorms. Follow the E.M. Greenman Trail to Saddle Rock Trail and return to Gregory Canyon parking lot. 5 hours, 5.3 miles.

OSMP Circle Hikes Guide



ENJOY.



PROTECT.